

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AGR-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INT-08

LAB-06 AID-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-13 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-10 SCI-06 CU-04 /225 R

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R 302125Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 30 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SOUVANNA PHOUMA THREATENS PUBLICLY TO QUIT

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AS PREMIER UNLESS THERE CAN BE AGREEMENT ON BOTH
SIDES ON DETAILS OF SETTLEMENT. SAYS THIS WILL BE HIS
LAST EFFORT AT FORGING NATIONAL UNION "BECAUSE
I AM 73 AND I AM TIRED." THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME

HE HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN BUT IS FIRST TIME HE
HAS DONE SO PUBLICLY (SUN, WP).

2. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) ATTRIBUTES SOUVANNA'S POLITICAL
DURABILITY TO SHREWD ABILITY TO MEDIATE BETWEEN
CONFLICTING GROUPS, CRUCIAL US AID, AND INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORT FOR HIM AS OPPOSED TO EXTREME RIGHT WING
ALTERNATIVE. OBSERVES ONE HOPEFUL SIGN FOR FUTURE
RESTS IN FACT THAT SOUVANNA "MAINTAINS CONSIDERABLE
RESPECT" FOR SOUPHANOUVONG.

3. GVN SAYS SKIRMISHES AND COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN
MEKONG DELTA AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AROUND KONTUM
'EFT MORE THAN 100 KILLED OR WOUNDED (REUTER).

4. BROWNE (NYT) IN PP REPORTS LON NOL'S FIRST NEWS
CONFERENCE IN MORE THAN 7 MONTHS. LOOKING VIGOROUS,
LON NOL SAID HEALTH IMPROVED AND HE PREFERENCES TO STAY
WITH HIS PEOPLE TO FIGHT TO REGAIN INDEPENDENCE. CONFER-
ENCE BEGAN WITH DENUNCIATION OF SIHANOUK AND HIS CLAIMS
TO NON-ALIGNMENT; PREVIOUSLY-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FOLLOWED.
CONCERNING OUTSIDE AID, LON NOL SAID GKR HAD APPEALED
TO ALL FRIENDLY NATIONS IN PAST, BUT HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY
REQUESTED GVN OR RTG MILITARY ASSISTANCE SINCE US BOMBING
HALT; ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH KI SAID THAT HE DID
NOT WANT TO COMPROMISE CHANCES OF SUCCESS BY DISCLOSURES
BUT ALL DEPENDS ON NVA WITHDRAWAL, THUS AFFIRMING GKR
POLICY OF TRYING TO DIVIDE KI BY ENCOURAGING DEFECTIONS
AND REFUSING TO DEAL WITH NVN; HE ALSO ACCUSED NVA/VC
OF GENOCIDE AND STATED FANK WILL DRIVE THEM OUT. HIS
REMARKS LEAVE LITTLE OPENING FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS
WITH NVA/VC. IN SHOW OF UNITY TO DISPEL RUMORS OF
INTERNAL DIVISIONS LON NOL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH
HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, AND OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS APPEARED
AT CONFERENCE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE. LIPPMAN (WP)
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DESCRIBES CONFERENCE AS ELABORATE AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED
BUT CONTAINING NO SURPRISES AND OFFERING NO NEW PROPOSALS;
LON NOL DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS
WITH KI OR SIHANOUK BUT STATED THAT GKR'S 6-POINT PEACE
PROPOSAL OF JULY 6 MET WITH ONLY FLAGRANT BAD FAITH;
HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MANDATE ENDS IN OCTOBER AND
LON NOL EVADED QUESTION OF WHETHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WOULD BE ASKED TO EXTEND IT (ALSO PHINQ; UPI, NYDN).
AFP TREATMENT CALLS CONFERENCE CULMINATION OF 10-
DAY PROPAGANDA BARRAGE AGAINST SIHANOUK, AND HIGHLIGHTS
GKR FEAR OF UNGA VOTE AS WELL AS ALGIERS NAC SUMMIT
ACTION.

5. WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAY HANOI ASSUMES BACKSTAGE
ROLE IN CAMBODIA SINCE SUCCESSFUL "KHMERIZATION"

OF WAR IN MID-1972, AND THAT SIHANOUK IS MORE INTERNATIONALLY THAN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS KI LEADER SINCE INSURGENTS SEEM TO DISCOURAGE PERSONALITY CULT. FROM PP, AP REPORTS US INTELLIGENCE CLAIMS INSURGENCY DIRECTED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF KHMER CP WITH HEADQUARTERS NEAR KRATIE (SUN).

6. PLASTIC BOMB EXPLODES IN PP MARKETPLACE KILLING 3; APPEARED TIMED TO GO OFF DURING LON NOL MEETING WITH PRESS BUT CONFERENCE STARTED LATE. FANK THROWN BACK IN ATTEMPTS TO RE-OPEN ROUTES 4 AND 5 DESPITE USE OF T-28S, ARTILLERY AND APCS BUT FIGHTING

CONTINUES 30 MI SW OF PP ON ROUTE 4 AND 35 MI NW OF PP ON ROUTE 5 (WP; PHINQ; CSM; UPI NYDN, NYT; AP, SUN).

THAILAND

7. JOINT US-THAI STATEMENT IN BANGKOK SAYS WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES BEGAN AUG. 30 WITH DEPARTURE OF FIGHTER-BOMBER SQUADRON FROM NAM PHONG. NO DESTINATION GIVEN, BUT UNDERSTOOD SQUADRON FLOWN TO IWAKUNI, US MARINE BASE IN JAPAN (REUTER).

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KOREA

8. DOS URGES NK CONTINUE TALKS WITH ROK AS "BEST HOPE OF REDUCING TENSIONS AND IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF ALL KOREANS." SPOKESMAN HARE SAYS "WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED OUR SUPPORT" FOR ROK EFFORTS TO START TALKS, AND US BELIEVES SK "HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN A FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING POSITION" (AP WP, NYT).

9. NYT SEOUL DISPATCH CITES REPORTS THAT NORTH-SOUTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE TALKS ARE ON VERGE OF BREAKING DOWN. SUN'S PEPPER, IN SEOUL, NOTES THAT LEE HU RAK, IN HASTILY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE, "OFFERED NORTH KOREA A FACE-SAVING OUT" IN SUGGESTING BOTH SIDES MIGHT APPOINT NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS -- "PRESUMABLY PEOPLE LESS TIGHTLY BOUND UP WITH THE PERSONAL PRESTIGE OF THE RULING FIGURES ON THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDES."

10. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, SAYS NK ATTACK ON LEE HU RAK IS REGARDED NOT AS BREAKDOWN IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE BUT AS TACTICAL OPENING TO UNGA KOREA DEBATE. BECAME KNOWN WEDNESDAY THAT SK PERMITTED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL TO MEET KIM DAE JUNG PERSONALLY TUESDAY; ALSO, TOKYO PRESS BEGAN HINTING THAT SK MIGHT LET KIM VISIT JAPAN FEW DAYS, THEN SEEK US ASYLUM.

JAPAN

11. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, REPORTS JAPAN-SK DIPLOMATIC BREACH WIDENED WEDNESDAY AS ROKG DELIVERED TO TOKYO WHAT JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY REPORT ON KIM ABDUCTION. LATER PUBLICIZED, TEXT CONTAINED ONLY LIST OF VEHICLES USED ON KOREAN END OF KIDNAPPING, THINGS TAKEN FROM KIM IN EVIDENCE AND

LIST OF SHIPS INVESTIGATED AS POSSIBLY TAKING HIM TO SK. "IN SUM, THE REPORT CONTAINED LESS INFORMATION" THAN GIVEN BY KIM FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE.
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12. CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, REPORTS BANK OF JAPAN'S 4TH HIKE IN DISCOUNT RATE IN 4 MONTHS (TO 7) AND COMPANION GOJ MOVES INCREASING DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT RATES FOR COMMERCIAL BANKS AND POSTPONING SOME 500 BILLION YEN WORTH OF BUDGETED PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR. SAYS GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS PRIVATELY HOPE ONLY THAT TIGHT MONEY WILL COPE WITH SHORT-TERM INFLATIONARY FORCES. "THEY ARE MOST PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF CONTAINING LONGER-TERM STRUCTURAL INFLATIONARY FORCES."

13. CULLISON (JOC), IN TOKYO, REPORTS HIGH MITI OFFICIAL SAYING JAPAN PLAN

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